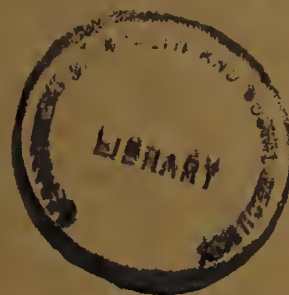


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SOWERBY BRIDGE  
Urban District Council

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# Annual REPORT

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

(S. H. BROCK, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)

and the

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

(Wm. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.)

for the year

**1972**

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SOWERBY BRIDGE

Urban District Council

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for the year

**1972**

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

1972-73

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor Mrs. E.M. GODFREY

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor G.A. BENBOW, J.P., C.C.

Members of the Council:

Coun. D. Asquith

" T. Asquith

" C.F. Beverley

" Mrs. M.E. Brewer

" J. Broadbent

" Mrs. E. Buick

" G.P. Dyson

" Mrs. J.R. Fairhurst

" A.E. Fieldhouse

" Mrs. E. Gaskell, J.P.

" L.E. Godfrey

Coun. T. Inwood

" G. Kitson

" T.H. Longbottom

" R.G. Marshall

" R.G. Milner

" R. Murphy

" A. Pettengell

" Mrs. D.M. Pettengell

" D.W. Sim

" J. Sutcliffe

" Mrs. D. Wood

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Health Committee:

Coun. J. Sutcliffe (Chairman)

" Mrs. D.M. Pettengell (Vice-Chairman)

" D. Asquith

" T. Asquith

" C.F. Beverley

" A.E. Fieldhouse

" T.H. Longbottom

" A. Pettengell

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Sowerby Bridge U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

S.H. BROCK, M.B., B.Ch., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Vacant

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W.E. FOSTER, M.R.S.P.H., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

P. NELLIS, M.R.S.P.H., M.P.H.I.A. (resigned 24.3.72)

J.S. MITCHELL, M.R.S.P.H., M.P.H.I.A. (commenced 5.6.72)

G. HARTLEY, M.R.S.P.H., M.P.H.I.A.

Technical Assistant:

H. HILEY

Clerical Staff:

Miss B. GARSIDE

Mrs. D. RAMSDEN (nee Craven)

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West Riding County Council

Preventive Medical Services: Health Division 18 (T)

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge District:-

Divisional Medical Officer:

As above (M.O.H.)

Senior Departmental Medical Officer:

Vacant

Departmental Medical Officer, and Medical Officer to Sowerby Bridge  
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic:

\* W.C. McKERR, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

\* S. CHARI, M.B., B.S. (Burma)



School Dental Officer:

Miss J. ROTHERA, L.D.S.

Divisional Nursing Officer:

\* C.J. BARKER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Queen's Nurse

Nursing Officer (Health Visiting):

\* S.M. GRAYSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.

Nursing Officer (Midwifery):

\* S.M. GAULE, R.S.N., S.R.N., S.C.M.

Nursing Officer (Home Nursing):

\* E. BRIGGS, S.R.N., S.C.M., District Training Cert.

Health Visitors:

\* M. HOLDSWORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.D.N., H.V. Cert.

M.A. HOLMES, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.

P.A. FOGELMAN, S.R.N., H.V. Cert. (commenced 30.8.72)

Assistant Health Visitors:

M.J. HILL (commenced Health Visitor's Course 1.10.72)

L. LIDDELL (commenced 8.10.72)

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

\* B.G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Midwives:

\* A.B. HOBSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse (retired 24.12.72)

\* I. MUSGROVE, S.C.M.

\* M.G. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M. (transferred from Brighouse 1.10.72)

Home Nurses:

A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse

\* K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse

\* H. MASH, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse

M. LINGARD, S.R.N.

\* S. COX, S.R.N., B.T.A., C.R.F.

\* Also have duties in other parts of this Division.

Clerical Staff:-

Divisional Administrative Officer:

H. MARSHALL, A.C.I.S., A.R.S.H.

Clerks:

Miss M.J. CROWTHER

Mrs. S.M. HALLSWORTH

Miss K. GILL

K.G. HOLLAND

Mrs. L.F. CLARKE, D.M.A.

Mrs. M. CRIDGE

Mrs. M. THACKRAY

Miss A.M. LONGBOTTOM

Miss S.E. KETTLEY

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Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee

Consultant Staff

Chest Physician:

B.T. MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:

P.J. BATCHELOR, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. (E), D.L.O.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

S.B. DAVIES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.

Orthopaedic Surgeon:

J.K. OYSTON, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.



The Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,  
Todmorden.

December, 1973.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1972, my second year as Medical Officer of Health and Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Health Services.

The vital statistics showed a very slight decrease in the population based on the mid year estimate, the figure for 1972 being 16,170, whilst the number of births was considerably reduced, giving a birth rate of 14.5 per thousand population, compared with 16.9 for the previous year. This figure has to be adjusted, of course, for population factors to permit comparison with other areas. The adjusted birth rate is 15.8 per thousand which is very much the same as the birth rate figure for the West Riding Administrative County. The infant mortality rate, at 13 per thousand live births, was very much less than the 1971 figure for the Urban District, and compares very favourably with the rate for the West Riding County and England and Wales as a whole.

The main causes of death were, again, diseases of the heart and circulation, over 70 per cent of this group being due to coronary heart disease, a condition which all too frequently strikes at the middle age groups with tragic consequences, emotionally and economically for the family. Strokes, cancer and respiratory disease were other major contributors to the mortality in 1972, to give an adjusted death rate of 13.7 - slightly higher than the County rate. The influence of smoking, excess weight and high blood pressure, for example, on the occurrence of coronary heart disease is well known, as is the beneficial effect of regular physical exercise. Similarly, much can be done to reduce spells of illness due to bronchitis, which accounts for approximately 30 million working days lost each year in the United Kingdom, by reducing smoking and, on a more general front, control of air pollution. In this latter respect, the progress of smoke control in the Urban District underlines the determination to deal with this preventable environmental hazard to health.

Although protection against measles is now part of the routine immunisation programme, notification of cases showed a very sharp increase during the year compared with 1971. Analysis of notifications received has shown that immunisation confers a very high degree of protection. The value of immunisation lies not only in reducing the number of cases, but also the unfortunate complications which can occur. Previous studies have shown that 38 per thousand notifications developed severe bronchitis and pneumonia, 25 per thousand had middle ear infection, 4 per thousand notifications showed neurological complications and about 1 per cent of cases required admission to hospital.

The number of tuberculosis cases notified remains very similar to the 1971 figure, indicating that the disease is still present, and means of preventing spread of infection

continue to be important until eradication takes place. The diminution of active cases is due to medical and social factors such as reduction of overcrowding, improvement in general standards of living, effective case finding and treatment by anti-tuberculous drugs, and prevention by vaccination.

Routine immunisation is offered for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and polio, under the County computer scheme, as well as for measles, and has resulted in well over 80 per cent of children being protected. Older children, who are susceptible, are vaccinated against tuberculosis; and schoolgirls at the age of about 13 years who have not had German measles are offered vaccination against this condition.

Attendances at Infant Welfare Clinics continue to be satisfactory, and the developmental assessment programme for pre-school children which was introduced last year has been well received by parents. Under this scheme, the health visitors carry out a system of screening tests at regular intervals on each child, so that any problem is identified and dealt with as soon as possible. However, the response of parents to the invitations for the child to have the full pre-school medical examination has been disappointing - 62 per cent of the children invited attended for this important examination. Whilst it is true that the non-attenders are examined in due course after they enter school, it is far better to identify any problems before the child enters school so that appropriate action may be taken, and the teacher made aware of the child's particular difficulties from the outset. Similarly, it is preferable for the pupil to have had his booster protection against the infectious diseases before he enters the wider exposure of the school population.

During the year there were 62 clinic sessions held at Allan House by the Family Planning Association, with an attendance figure of over 1,300. The range of services provided was extended in March 1972.

The provision of health and supportive services for the older age groups is of prime importance, and will continue to be so, since the proportion of elderly people in the community is increasing gradually over the years, partly due to smaller family size and partly to improved life expectancy. In any particular area, of course, local factors also play a part, e.g. whether it is an industrial or retirement type of area. The meals on wheels and luncheon club activities continued to play a vital role in supporting the elderly in need whilst the warden schemes, of which there were 5 covering the grouped dwellings on Council estates and 4 of the visiting type, provided friendly oversight and the means of identifying various needs and problems which might arise.

The chiropody scheme arranged for 478 patients to receive 2,442 treatments in the clinic, and a further 193 who were unable to attend received 909 treatments at home. This service, having been started on a voluntary basis in earlier years, was operated in association with the West Riding County Council from February 1960, and wholly by the County Council since 1964. It has proved of inestimable value, particularly to the elderly and physically handicapped. Unfortunately, due to the expansion of need and, it appears, total lack of availability of qualified staff, it is possible that it may become increasingly difficult to maintain the service provided during the year.

The Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff continued to advise, inspect and sample, in order to ensure that the regulations are observed in respect of food hygiene

and the sale of pure milk, and in this latter respect it is satisfying to note the low rate of positive results for Brucellosis from the milk samples obtained. The report deals in detail with the environmental work of the Department including housing, pollution and water supply.

As this report has been prepared, the impetus towards the re-organisation of Local Government and the Health Services has been gaining momentum, with its consequent pressures involving time and work. I would particularly like to express my sincere appreciation to the Members of the Council for their patience and courtesy, and to Mr. Foster, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and other Officers of the Council, for their friendly co-operation and help at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S.H. BROCK, M.B., B.Ch., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



# SECTION 1

## Vital Statistics

### STATISTICS

Area .. .. .	5,763 acres
Population, Registrar-General's estimate of	
Resident Population, mid-1972 .. .. .	16,170
Population (Census, 1971) .. .. .	16,260
Number of dwellinghouses .. .. .	6,299
Rateable Value (1.4.72) .. .. .	£ 400,278
Estimated Product of a 1p Rate (year 1972-73) .. .. .	£ 3,684

### Summary of Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F	
Live Births	234	120	114	Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 14.5
Still Births	4	-	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births: 17.0
Total Live & Still Births	238	120	118	
Deaths of Infants				Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:
Under 1 year (total)	3	1	2	total 13
Under 1 year (legitimate)	3	1	2	legitimate 14
Under 1 year (illegitimate)	-	-	-	illegitimate -
Under 4 weeks	2	1	1	Neo-natal mortality rate 9
Under 1 week	2	1	1	Early neo-natal mortality rate 9
Illegitimate Live Births	23	14	9	Percentage of total live births: 10
Maternal Deaths (associated with pregnancy or child-birth)	-	-	-	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births: -
All Deaths	238	119	119	Death Rate per 1,000 population: 14.7

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.

1972

									M	F
B 18	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..					-	1
B 19 (2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	..	..	..	..				1	3
B 19 (3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	..			2	4
B 19 (4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	..	..	..	..				5	2
B 19 (6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	..	..	..	..				10	-
B 19 (7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	..	..	..	..	..			-	7
B 19 (9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	..	..	..	..	..			1	-
B 19 (10)	Leukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2
B 19 (11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	..	..	..	..			7	3
B 20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	..	..	..	..				-	1
B 21	Diabetes Mellitus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 23	Anaemias	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 46 (5)	Other diseases of Nervous System	..	..	..	..				1	-
B 31	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 27	Hypertensive Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
B 28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	47
B 29	Other forms of Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..			4	3
B 30	Cerebrovascular Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	13
B 46 (6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	..	..					4	6
B 32	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	14
B 33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	..	..	..	..	..			7	3
B 46 (7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..					1	-
B 34	Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
B 38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 46 (3)	Mental Disorders	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
B 46 (8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	..	..	..					2	2
B 42	Congenital Anomalies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	..	..	..					1	-
	Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	..	..	..					-	1
B 45	Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	..	..	..					-	1
BE 47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	-
BE 48	All other Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
									119	119

# Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1972

Based on Registrar General's Figures

	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Rippon- den U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todmor- den M.B.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W.Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:- (per 1,000 estimated population) .. ..	15.8	14.3	19.2	12.5	14.5	15.5	15.5	14.8
DEATH RATES:- (All per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All Causes .. ..	13.7	10.5	12.9	12.7	12.6	13.0	12.9	12.1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. ..	-	-	-	-	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.02
Other forms of tuberculosis .. ..	-	-	-	-	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.01
Cancer .. ..	2.91	2.06	3.33	2.40	3.21	2.23	2.23	2.43
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. ..	1.67	1.65	2.30	2.40	1.14	1.89	1.79	+
Heart and circulatory diseases * .. ..	6.56	6.19	6.08	6.29	6.29	4.98	4.67	+
Respiratory Diseases:- ** (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	2.23	1.03	1.49	2.10	2.07	1.80	1.73	+
INFANT MORTALITY:- (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	12.8	17.9	6.7	29.4	33.1	17.1	17.6	17.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY:- (Deaths of mothers associated with pregnancy or childbirth, per 1,000 live and still births)	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	0.04	0.15

\* Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.

\*\* Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

+ + Figures not available.



## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### (A) Hospitals

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, Northowram Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Todmorden Fielden Hospital and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mentally subnormal patients).

Maternity beds are available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

#### (B) Ambulance Service

The County Ambulance Service covers this district through the Group Control at Birkenshaw and the Divisional Depot at Brighouse, and may be contacted by telephone - Bradford 682211, or Halifax 62191. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

#### (C) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service, at laboratories in Leeds and Bradford, and by the Regional Blood Transfusion Service at Leeds. There are also facilities for the examination of clinical specimens, including cervical smears, at the Royal Halifax Infirmary.

#### (D) Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Royal Halifax Infirmary for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. A supply of re-agents for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles and rubella, is available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

SECTION III

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

(A) Clinics and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Tuesdays	}	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
	Thursdays		
The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot	Fridays		

Cervical Cytology:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	By appointment
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Chiropody (for Pensioners, etc.)

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	}	By appointment
The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot		

Dental Clinic:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	By appointment
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School Clinics:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	}	As required
(a) Ophthalmic		
(b) Ear, Nose and Throat		

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Tetanus Immunisation:

Whooping Cough Immunisation:

Poliomyelitis Vaccination:

Measles Vaccination:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge  
The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot  
At Clinic Sessions by arrangement with Medical Officer.

## (B) Care of Mothers and Young Children

### Child Welfare Clinics:

From the beginning of the year a system of regular screening tests to assess development of all pre-school children was introduced as part of the Child Health Service, carried out by the Health Visitors and Doctors.

Total number of children who attended during the year	..	..	..	730
Total number of attendances ..	..	..	..	3,138

### Home Visiting of Infants:

Total number of live births to Sowerby Bridge mothers	..	..	..	234
Number of first visits to children under 1 year ..	..	..	..	229
Total number of first visits to children aged 1-5 years	..	..	..	593

### Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.:

A variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods were sold at the Child Welfare Centre for the convenience of mothers. National dried milk, Vit. A, D & C drops for children, and Vit. A, D & C tablets for expectant and nursing mothers were also distributed. The tablets contain, in addition, certain other essential nutritional requirements for the expectant and nursing mother.

These vitamin preparations are free to expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age in low income families, in addition to free Welfare milk. Included in these are families in receipt of Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement, and any in special need because of low income. For families not entitled to free provision the cost of these preparations is very modest - about 5p for a six weeks supply.

### Care of Premature Infants:

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them. Portable incubators are available at both the Halifax and Brighouse Ambulance Stations, should it be necessary to transfer a premature infant to hospital.

### Provision of Maternity Outfits:

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

### (C) Professional Nursing in the Home

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. There were 5 full-time Home Nurses and 2 full-time Midwives employed in 1972. 3 of the Home Nurses and both Midwives, however, did not work wholly in the Sowerby Bridge area, also having duties in other parts of the Divisional area.

#### Midwifery Service:

Number of home confinements .. .. .	51
Number of hospital confinements .. .	187

The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of both tri-lene and gas and air analgesia, and are provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it, subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.

Relaxation classes were held regularly during the year.

### (D) Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, of persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

Throughout this Health Division, as far as possible, Health Visitors are attached to the practices of family doctors and serve the families on their medical lists, rather than working in fixed districts. This attachment scheme has led to closer integration of the two services, and this is very much appreciated.

#### Family Planning

Since April 1971, the Family Planning Association have held weekly sessions in Allan House Clinic, Sowerby Bridge, taking cases from the Ripponden area as well as the immediate locality.

#### Cervical Cytology

This examination for early detection of cancer of the cervix is offered on a regular basis at Allan House Clinic at Sowerby Bridge, and is also provided by the family doctors.



(E) Care and After Care

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or subnormality, venereal disease, and other illness.

Tuberculosis

A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is employed in the Division. She attends the chest clinic at the Royal Halifax Infirmary, and has helped to forge a valuable link with the hospital services. She is also responsible for visiting patients at home, and helps to trace and supervise their contacts. In 1972, visits were paid to 62 households in the Division.

(F) School Health Service

1

Number of schools in district	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1972	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,049
Number of children examined at school during 1972	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	691
this figure being made up as follows:-								
Routine examination	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	225
Re-examination	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	456
Number of children referred for treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35

(G) Immunisation and Vaccination

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation and vaccination of schoolchildren and pre-school children may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor. Under the County Health Department's computer programme, immunisations are offered during the pre-school period to protect against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio and measles. Routine vaccination of infants against smallpox is no longer performed, following the recommendation made to the Department of Health by the Advisory Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, and was based on progress made on the International front by the World Health Organisation Smallpox Eradication Programme and the view that, in this country, the risks of continuing the routine vaccination of infants outweigh the advantages as a precautionary measure.

In addition to booster immunisations given later in childhood, vaccination against tuberculosis is offered to those who require it at the age of 12 to 13 years, and vaccination against German Measles to girls in the same age group who have no natural immunity.

# SECTION IV

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Summary of Notifications received in year 1972

Disease											Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	146
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Dysentery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Acute Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Smallpox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Acute Encephalitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Paratyphoid Fevers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Food Poisoning .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Ophthalmic Neonatorum .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Infective Jaundice .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
											<hr/>
											153
											<hr/>



# Tuberculosis

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis  
In Sowerby Bridge In 1972

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Totals
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Number on Register on 1st January 1972 ..	29	5	34	-	2	2	36
Number first notified during 1972 .. ..	3	-	3	-	1	1	4
Number of cases restored to Register ..	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Number of cases added to Register other than by notification .. .. .	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Number removed from Register during 1972:-							
(a) Died .. .. .	1	1	2	-	-	-	2
(b) Removed from district .. .. .	2	-	2	-	-	-	2
(c) Recovered .. .. .	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Number remaining on Register, 31.12.72	29	5	34	-	3	3	37

REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the year ending 31st December 1972

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To the Chairman and Members of the Sowerby Bridge Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on (a) the sanitary conditions of the area, (b) the housing conditions including overcrowding, (c) the inspection and supervision of food, for the year ending 31st December 1972, and for the cleansing services for the financial year ending 31st March 1973.

Although the Authority will have a further year to run, this will in all probability be the last report that I shall present, as future reports will be prepared and written within the new Calderdale Authority.

Annual reports have always been a part of history, and consequently have lost not only a considerable amount of interest, but also many of the questions have already been resolved in the interim period. Nevertheless, they contain valuable information relating to the Urban District.

Thirty-five annual reports have been presented during my time as Chief Public Health Inspector. These have taken up a considerable amount of time, both in preparation and presentation. They are a statutory requirement, but I feel that these documents are seldom read, and if it were not for the requirements of the Government I am of the opinion that the time could be better used, especially when it is so valuable. Nevertheless, the report offers a comparison of the work from year to year, and an opportunity to review progress.

Unfortunately, I do not feel that the full extent of the Department's work is fully recognised. The work of the Department, by its very nature, tends to become unpopular, but the work is such that it constantly involves people and their environment. It involves change, and people especially elderly people, do not take lightly to change; but in an industrial town like Sowerby Bridge, change is inevitable, not merely for the sake of change, but for progress.

A change in boundaries took place in 1938, under the County Review Order, and now from March 1974 we shall have a further change in boundaries which will form the new Calderdale Authority. Between these two boundary changes the Urban District has itself seen many changes, I think for the better, in which the Public Health Department has played a very full part.

Whilst the work and progress of the Department over the past year will again be reviewed,

it is also hoped to outline the position which has now been reached in each particular function undertaken by the Department.

One of the changes that has passed almost unseen is the improvement of the sanitary conditions, not only in the more rural areas, but also in many parts of the central areas. The district, after extension under the first review, unfortunately contained more than 1,000 out-dated and very primitive types of sanitary accommodation in the form of pails, middens, etc. These had to be cleansed regularly by the employees of the Cleansing Department - a most undignified and objectionable duty.

The conversions to water carriage have taken a long time to complete, due mainly to the lack of an adequate water supply, for in this respect more than 35% of the houses were at this time on a private water supply; but over the years the Authority has extended the main supply under the provisions of the Sewerage and Rural Water Supplies Act to serve almost the entire area. Those properties not served are less than 4%, and are for the most part in more remote areas where the main supply is not available. The work, which had been very costly, has enabled conversions to be undertaken with the result that the pail has almost disappeared from the urban area, and in fact it is hoped that this will be non-existent by 1974.

Also at the year end, apart from small extensions, only one major extension remained, and this covered properties at Higham and Dob which had unfortunately been refused grant by the Department of the Environment. The area was, however, completely re-surveyed and additional properties included, and it is pleasing to note that this has now been accepted and work should be completed during 1973.

Perhaps one of the most controversial and important duties which falls to the lot of the Department is that of housing, especially that section dealing with slum clearance and compulsory purchase. This is always a very delicate subject, and a duty in which so many people are deeply involved. It is one which contributes to the unpopularity of the Department, and perhaps one of the most misunderstood duties which we undertake.

The law on housing is quite specific. It states that it is the duty of the Local Authority to inspect the conditions of the houses in its district from time to time, and to report any unsatisfactory conditions to that Authority. It is the duty of the Public Health Department, and in Sowerby Bridge this duty has been carried out as tactfully as possible. One is not proud of the number of houses condemned and demolished, but one has a sense of satisfaction in the removal of unfit houses, houses which have been neglected and are in a state of disrepair, and houses which have long outlived their usefulness, still retaining joint sanitary accommodation, joint refuse accommodation, lack of modern amenities, disrepair, dampness and the like.

Sowerby Bridge is only a small industrial area, but these conditions are a thing of the past. The back-to-back Type 1, and the back-to-earth house is almost non-existent, but the back-to-back houses of side scullery type still exist and will continue to be in evidence for many years, as they serve a very useful purpose in many parts of the district, and improvement grants are given without question for this type of house.

During 1972 representation of houses has continued, and it is hoped to complete the clearance programme in 1973, before entering Calderdale. This does not mean that the clearance programme



is at an end. It means that the planned programme has been completed and the vast majority of unfit houses cleared, but some 300 borderline properties still remain, and should be reviewed between 1975 and 1980 and considered in the light of the housing policy of the new Authority.

The Council have moved a very long way in housing since 1945. Since this date approximately 1,600 houses have been represented and cleared, and in their wisdom the Council have re-developed many of these sites and provided more than 1,400 new dwellings of varying types. These, together with housing loans and improvement grants, which have resulted in some 23% of the older houses being improved, mean that the housing conditions in Sowerby Bridge are better than they have ever been.

It may be suggested in some quarters that the Department have been clearance minded. In fact I well remember an inexperienced Councillor, obviously not knowing the facts of the case, state that he objected strongly to "blanket clearance" of housing. This of course is not so; blanket clearance does not take place. Clearance was a very necessary priority in the district, and it was unthinkable that families should continue to exist in such out-dated properties; but with the removal of the majority of unfit houses, and the generous improvement grants being available, there was a gradual shift to the improvement of older properties.

Surveys of some 12 Improvement Areas were submitted in 1969, but the Council of the day failed to implement any of these, and it was not until 1971, after further reports, that 2 areas in the East Ward were added to a very controversial Improvement Area at Mill Bank.

The Authority has faced up to its housing duties in clearance, re-development and improvement, and its record in this respect is one of which it can be justly proud.

Perhaps the most noticeable improvement in the district has been the clean air programme. In 1961 this programme was resisted most resolutely, and perhaps in a manner not very becoming to certain members of the Local Authority of that day. The Health Committee were defeated on the implementation of clean air, and the programme deferred for 2 years. During this time, with the full and valuable co-operation of the industrialists, the factory plants were completely overhauled to comply fully with the requirements of the Act, after which further efforts were made by the Health Committee to commence the domestic programme in earnest.

In July 1963 the first smoke control survey was undertaken, and in July 1965 the first area became operative. The district was divided into 12 areas, and the Urban District was planned to become fully smoke controlled by 1975. The work has continued smoothly and according to programme, with no public inquiries and no abandonment of any part of the programme due to shortage of fuels, etc. It is very pleasing to note that in view of the fact that Sowerby Bridge will be phased out on the 31st March 1974, the programme has been accelerated, so much so that it is anticipated that on the 31st December 1973 the entire district will be fully smoke controlled.

It is most rewarding to hear old residents who, on their return to the district, remark on the cleanliness of the atmosphere; and also when keen gardeners, especially the Parks Superintendent, remark on the improvement in plant life and the possibility of

cultivating areas which previously were subject to gross pollution. During the year, the 2 remaining areas at Luddendenfoot, Midgley and Luddenden, Areas 11 and 12, were completely surveyed and details submitted to the Department of the Environment. By the year end these 2 areas were confirmed by the Ministry.

The work of the Cleansing Department has continued on a 7-day cycle for almost the entire year. Difficulties have been experienced with labour, and these are bound to continue, with the very low basic wages paid to both drivers and labourers. The work is objectionable, and the turnover of the labour force is quite high, approaching 35%. If it were not for the willingness of the long service employees who continue to work conscientiously, the service would collapse. The bonus, introduced in 1965, helps to some extent but there is no doubt that the basic wage should be increased in order to attract sufficient labour to this very vital and important health service.

In order to make the work more attractive, the plastic bin liner system, together with plastic bins, is being extended. The majority of houses are now provided with the plastic bin, and during 1973 the bin liner system will be extended so that more than 37% of the houses will have bin liners in the form of a plastic sack. It has been found that the free standing unit with the paper sack, whilst being acceptable in many areas, has the disadvantage of being split by animal interference, resulting in many advantages with this method of collection being lost. This method is slowly being replaced with the bin liner.

All the domestic refuse is disposed of at Milner Royd, which has been the main disposal point since before 1950. This area covers approximately 11 acres and is nearing completion. Already the central part, covering almost half the area, has been completed and grassed, and by mid-1974 the tipping should be completed. Perhaps one of my deepest regrets is the fact that this area will not be completed under my supervision before Calderdale takes over; it will, however, be almost completed.

It has been possible, with the new John Deere tractor, not only to control the refuse but also to prepare deep refuse bays both to extend the life of the tip, and also the proposed playing area. It has been used for grading of the banks, and to a very large extent to provide and remove access roads as and where necessary.

It has been suggested that this area will become a sports arena when completed. This may be, but what I should like to see in the first instance, at what I consider not a very high cost, is an area where the maximum number of football, cricket and even hockey pitches can be laid out, in order to give competitive sport to the youth of our town. This appears to be a very great need, and can be borne out by the number of applications for football pitches and the like, which have had to be turned down. I sincerely hope that this will become a reality in the not too far distant future. The area is so near completion that I feel confident it could be handed over to Amenities by mid-1974.

The area will have taken all types of refuse since 1950. The maximum depth of tipping in 6 layers is 45ft., and the amount of domestic refuse including trade, commercial and industrial refuse, exceeds 700,000 cubic yards.

Tipping space in the Calder Valley is at a premium. In Sowerby Bridge it may be possible to revert to Daisy Bank, still used on occasions. This would most probably extend



the facilities for refuse disposal to the end of 1975. As set out in my last report, the Authorities have been aware of this position, and the Committee set up to consider this matter appointed a firm of consultants, who have now completed a feasibility study, but unfortunately, due to lengthy delays, this project has been held up far too long. It is of the utmost importance that the work study proceed and the findings be conveyed with the minimum delay to the Authority, who will eventually be responsible for refuse disposal, in order that adequate provision for refuse disposal may be made before all space for controlled tipping is completed.

Many of the sections of the work undertaken by the Department are set out in this report under separate headings, and whilst perhaps nothing spectacular has happened, the routine work of food inspection in the food shops and the market of our town, together with food sampling, has continued at regular intervals. It is pleasing to note from the sampling of milk that the number of cases of Brucellosis have been very small, and it is also interesting to note the number of producers who have now become accredited for this purpose.

Sowerby Bridge, as we all know, is a typical West Riding industrial area, and when one looks around there appears that much remains to be done; but much has already been accomplished, and I feel confident that the Public Health Department has played its full share, but this has not been possible without all Departments being deeply involved. I like to think that the many recreational areas and many parks so well prepared and maintained by the Parks Department, were the result of careful planning of refuse disposal sites by the Health Department; or alternatively the scheduling of areas of unfit properties which, after inspection, inquiries, and difficulties, were perhaps not only developed into many parks but also developed by the Surveyor's Department into housing estates which are a credit to the Authority. Again, I do not suppose this could be finalised or even started without the legal formalities being completed, and the finance available from the Treasurer. All Departments have been instrumental in the completion of so many projects to make Sowerby Bridge a little better.

In the Department I have been extremely fortunate throughout my career in having such a loyal and dedicated staff to work with me. The inspectors, technical officers and clerks have worked as a team, and it has been on this basis that we have managed to carry out the work of the Department in a very happy and respectful atmosphere.

May I, in conclusion, thank the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor J. Sutcliffe, who has taken such a great interest in the Department, and also the Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and assistance.

I have served under many Medical Officers, both part-time and full-time, and I have been most fortunate in serving under 4 full-time Medical Officers who have been most understanding. May I thank the present Medical Officer, Dr. S.H. Brock, for his help and support in the many complex problems which have arisen from time to time.

My thanks are also due to the Public Health Inspectors, Mr. P. Nellis who left the Department after serving for more than 8 years, Mr. J.S. Mitchell, who succeeded Mr. Nellis, and also Mr. G. Hartley. Also the Technical Officer, Mr. H. Hiley, who has dealt with the problems under the Clean Air Act in a very efficient and tactful manner. Also to the Clerical Staff, Miss B. Garside and Mrs. D. Ramsden, who have been responsible for the setting out of the reports and the general clerical work of the Department. May I also record my thanks to the Foreman, Mr. F. Croad, who has been in the Department for more



than 25 years, and also the Employees of the Cleansing Department, who carry out the objectionable work of collection and disposal of refuse in such a satisfactory manner.

My thanks are also due to all Officials of the Council, and the Calderdale Water Board, who have so kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this report.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours sincerely,

W.E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLIES

#### Public Supply

The public water supply for the majority of the urban district is supplied by the Calderdale Water Board, and by arrangement with the Board, parts of the Ryburn Valley are supplied by the Wakefield and District Water Board.

The approximate number of houses connected to the public supplies at the end of the year is 6,049, being 96.0% of the total number of houses in the urban district. These are supplied as follows:-

Calderdale Water Board - Halifax Reservoirs	.. ..	5,816
Wakefield and District - Ripponden Reservoirs	.. ..	233

There has been no new main extension during the year, but a further 50 existing dwellinghouses previously supplied by spring water have now been connected to the public supply. This has been possible because of the mains extensions in the past two years at Morley Hall, Saw Hill and Ivy Houses, and Towngate, Midgley. At the year end, only a few properties still require to be connected to these new mains.

Two schemes were given further consideration during the year. The proposed extension of town's water supply to the Higham and Dob and Steep Lane area, which was originally turned down by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as it did not comply with their conditions, was re-designed to cover more properties at very little extra cost. Early in the year, the Calderdale Water Board agreed to lay 2,345 yards of 4" AC main to supply water to 33 properties in this area. The scheme was submitted by them to the West Riding County Council and the Secretary of State for the Environment, under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, 1944-1971, and undertakings were given by both in respect of grant aid towards the cost of the scheme. At the year end it was anticipated that work on this scheme would commence early in 1973.

The other scheme given consideration was the extension of 400 yards of 4" AC main to cover 45 properties at Blackwood Hall, Belle Vue Terrace and Booth House Terrace. These properties were originally included in the initial Blackwood Hall scheme, the remainder of which was completed last year. However, these properties had to be removed from the initial scheme to allow grant aid to be forthcoming on the remainder, as the Ministry of Housing and Local Government would not give grant on the whole scheme. During the year the Council decided to go forward with this extension even though no grant aid would be forthcoming. An estimate of the cost of the work was obtained from the Calderdale Water Board, and this was under consideration at the year end.

The public supplies have been highly satisfactory in all respects, and during the year 6 samples were obtained, and upon bacteriological examination all were found to be satisfactory.

However, as in previous years, it has been found that certain blocks of properties are experiencing a shortage of supply due to old joint service pipes which are now quite inadequate to meet the increased demand for water, resulting from installations of bathrooms and hot water systems, etc. Each house should, of course, be supplied direct from the mains, but in certain instances suitably located mains do not exist. In such an instance the Calderdale Water Board will usually agree to provide a main free of charge, on the proviso that 50% of the owners of the houses concerned agree beforehand to connect to the new main. The cost of the new connection is the direct responsibility of the owner of the house, who is often reluctant to have the work done. Due to this, the implementation of such schemes has often been difficult and prolonged.

One other factor causing extreme difficulty is that in some instances standard grants are having to be approved on condition that the owner provides a separate water communication pipe to the property. Unfortunately, this work is not grant earning, as it is in the case of discretionary grant applications. Despite several discussions with the Regional Office of the Department of the Environment, they have stood firm on their opinion that such work should not be made grant earning within the scope of the standard grant. As a result of this, the Council decided to implement the provisions of Section 96 of the Housing Act, 1964, which enables a Local Authority to give assistance in respect of the provision of a separate service pipe for a house which has a piped supply of water from a water main, but no separate service pipe. This grant aid, of a similar proportion to the grant paid in the provision of the standard amenities, is now given in cases where property is being improved to the standard grant level, and where a separate service pipe is considered necessary in the opinion of this Department and the Calderdale Water Board. Grants were paid in 3 such cases in 1972, these totalling £85.11

At the year end, difficulties are still being met with in relation to properties where suitably located mains do not exist. It may be necessary to consider whether any financial encouragement should be given to owners whose houses are already improved, in order that the 50% of owners the Calderdale Water Board require to agree to connect to a new main before laying it may be more easily attracted.

### Private Supplies

After the proposed extensions at Belle Vue Terrace and the Higham and Dob / Steep Lane area have been completed, apart from the properties situated on the more remote parts of the hillside, the entire area will then be covered by the public supply.

The following table sets out the number of houses still dependant upon private water supplies, and also the decreases in these numbers over the years, which has been largely due to the efforts of the Council in extending the public supply.

Approximately 250 houses still remain on private supplies. These are mostly serving isolated farmhouses and very small blocks of property, and it will be impossible, due to contours, to cover the entire area with the public supply, but efforts are being made to improve the private supplies in order that these will be satisfactory.



Year	No. of Houses on a Private Supply	Percentage of total
1961	1,246	19.5 %
1962	1,230	19.0 %
1963	1,164	17.0 %
1964	1,023	14.9 %
1965	869	12.8 %
1966	758	11.2 %
1967	691	9.2 %
1968	596	8.8 %
1969	529	7.7 %
1970	485	7.4 %
1971	300	4.7 %
1972	250	4.0 %

The above private supplies are checked regularly and surveyed as and when necessary.

During 1972, 53 samples of water have been obtained for bacteriological examination, of which 45 were unsatisfactory. A number of these have recently been replaced by the public water supply. Where unsatisfactory samples are reported, the occupier is informed of this and is advised to boil all water used for drinking purposes. They are also continually urged to improve such supplies by cleansing neglected storage tanks, renewing pipelines and by installing bacteriological filters. When improvement grant applications are received for such properties, these works are made a condition of grant where necessary. Details of the samples are set out below:-

District	Bacteriological Examination		
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Total
Luddenden Foot .. .. .	2	11	13
Midgley and Luddenden .. .. .	-	13	13
Triangle and Mill Bank .. .. .	4	11	15
Sowerby .. .. .	2	5	7
Norland .. .. .	-	5	5
Totals .. .. .	8	45	53

In addition to these samples, 7 were obtained for chemical analysis, 1 of which was found to be unsatisfactory, the water being aggressive to metals. Where lead pipes are found to be attacked, occupiers are advised to replace these with a suitable alternative.

Where supplies are found to attack fittings on hot water circuits, every effort is made to persuade the owners to replace the metal concerned with one which is not subject to attack. Upon enquiry, no evidence of ill-effects has been observed amongst the users of these supplies.

### Drainage and Sewerage

The sewers of the district serve approximately 6,069 houses, but there are approximately 230 that rely on cesspools, septic tank drainage and the like. The majority of these have a satisfactory means of disposal, but unfortunately some still rely on unsatisfactory drainage to fields, although such instances are fast disappearing.

The unsewered areas in the district are likely to remain so, but where improvements are taking place, septic tank drainage is being provided, and if this method is properly maintained it appears to be quite satisfactory and accepted by the Rivers Board.

Routine maintenance has continued during the year, with the cleansing, flushing and repair of drains and sewers as and where necessary.

During the year, 126 visits in connection with defective drainage, together with 118 re-visits for testing, have been undertaken. In addition to this work, 46 choked drains have been attended to under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. No charge has been made for this work.

### Sewage Disposal

Main drainage reconstruction in connection with the High Royd Sewage Disposal Works extension was awaiting approval at the year end, as was the proposed installation of a temporary High Rate Filter to treat trade wastes at Milner Royd Sewage Disposal Works.

### Sanitary Accommodation

The Council, over the years, has made efforts to improve the sanitary conditions in the outlying districts by the extension of water supply and the provision of adequate sewers, or alternatively the provision of septic tank drainage. Although this has resulted in the very primitive type of sanitary accommodation, namely pails, gradually disappearing, there does appear a very small minority who have no desire to improve their sanitary conditions, even though continually urged to do so.

With the conversion grant of £50 being available or alternatively, in certain instances, the full housing improvement grant, there is no excuse in this day and age for these pails remaining. As the emptying of these pails by the Council ceased in 1971 as mentioned in last year's report, it was expected that many more conversions would be carried out. However, few have been completed during the year, and it does appear that in the coming year the Council may have to consider acting formally in this matter to gain any improvement in the situation.

The domestic sanitary accommodation within the district is set out as follows:-

Number of Pedestal W.C.s	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,003
Number of Pails / Chemical Closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Number of Trough or Waste Water Closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
														<hr/> 6,050 <hr/>

The distribution of pails in the out-districts is indicated in the following table:-

District	Pails
Luddenden Foot .. .. .	1
Midgley and Luddenden .. .. .	3
Triangle .. .. .	5
Sowerby .. .. .	24
Norland .. .. .	7
Total ..	40

From these figures it will be seen that although there is still a certain amount of joint sanitary accommodation within the district, this is decreasing quite rapidly, mainly with the progress of slum clearance, and the continuing trend of dwelling improvement.

#### Factories Act, 1961

Details of the factories on the register, together with the defects found, are set out in the following tables:-

#### Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	1	1	-
Where Section 7 is enforced .. .. .	78	40	-
Totals ..	79	41	-



Number with inadequate sanitary conveniences .. .. .	-
Number in need of cleaning .. .. .	4
Number requiring general modernisation .. .. .	-
Other contraventions relating to ventilation, lighting, etc. .. .. .	7
Number satisfactory .. .. .	30
Number dealt with verbally, and improved .. .. .	11
informal action .. .. .	-

The following table sets out the factories on the register operating in the district at the end of the year:-

Bakehouses .. .. .	2
Brass Finishing .. .. .	1
Carpet Manufacturers .. .. .	6
Cloth Carbonising .. .. .	2
Diecasting .. .. .	1
Drycleaners .. .. .	1
Dyers .. .. .	1
Dyeworks .. .. .	1
Electrical Generating and Transforming .. .. .	1
Engineering (light) .. .. .	6
Gas Holder .. .. .	1
Joiners and Cabinet Makers .. .. .	5
Launderers .. .. .	1
Leather Goods .. .. .	1
Light Steel Machinery .. .. .	1
Machine Tools .. .. .	1
Mortar Grinding .. .. .	1
Motor Vehicle Repairs .. .. .	3
Paper Baling and Sorting .. .. .	1
Pattern Making .. .. .	1
Plastic Mouldings and Compounds .. .. .	3
Portable Buildings .. .. .	1
Pre-packed Foods .. .. .	1
Printers .. .. .	1
Radio and Television Repairs .. .. .	1
Sheet Metal Working .. .. .	2
Shops classified as factories .. .. .	1
Sugar Confectioners .. .. .	3
Textiles - Cotton .. .. .	3
Textiles - Woollen and Worsted .. .. .	11
Textile Machinery .. .. .	1
Upholstery .. .. .	2
Warehouses .. .. .	2
Wholesale Clothing .. .. .	3
Wire Manufacturers .. .. .	1
Wool Sorting (including waste, etc.) .. .. .	3
Wool Blending .. .. .	2

## Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Inspections under the Act have been carried out during the past year, during which no major difficulties have arisen in enforcing the Act. Most of the contraventions have been of a comparatively minor nature, which were readily remedied after the occupier had been notified.

Whether again the absence of any reports of accidents to persons working in premises covered by the Act is due to the reasonably high standard that is maintained in such premises, is a matter for conjecture, but must surely have played some large part in securing the safety, health and welfare of employees, as the Act so obviously intends. On the other hand, it is possible that accidents have not been reported, either because the occupier has not been aware of his obligations to report accidents under Section 48 of the Act, or because accidents have not been purposely reported. However, no evidence of such cases has been seen or come to light, and occupiers are continually reminded of their responsibilities in these matters.

As can be seen from the table below, the number of new registrations totalled 3, whilst the number of premises coming within the scope of the Act dropped from last year's figure of 74 to 70. The number of persons employed showed a corresponding fall, from 275 to 267. These figures show the continuing trend of the slight decrease in the number of premises registered and the number of persons employed under the Act, and it is interesting to note that the corresponding figures for 1967, 3 years after the Act's introduction, were 126 premises registered, and 474 persons employed in such premises.

### Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices .. .. .	-	18	6
Retail Shops .. .. .	3	41	19
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses .. .. .	-	3	2
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens .. .. .	-	8	8
Fuel Storage Depots .. .. .	-	-	-
Totals ..	3	70	35

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered

Premises under the Act .. .. . 124

# Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness .. .. 2	16	Floors, passage and stairs .. 11
5	Overcrowding .. .. Nil	17	Fencing exposed parts
6	Temperature .. .. 6		machinery .. .. 1
7	Ventilation .. .. 1	18	Protection of young
8	Lighting .. .. 1		persons from dangerous
9	Sanitary Conveniences .. 9		machinery .. .. Nil
10	Washing Facilities .. .. 5	19	Training of young persons
11	Supply of Drinking Water .. Nil		working at dangerous
12	Clothing Accommodation .. 1		machinery .. .. Nil
13	Sitting Facilities .. .. Nil	23	Prohibition of heavy work .. Nil
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) .. Nil	24	First Aid General Provisions 3
15	Eating Facilities .. .. 1		Other Matters .. .. 14
			Total .. .. 55

# Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices .. .. .	65
Retail Shops .. .. .	116
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses .. .. .	21
Restaurants and Canteens .. .. .	65
Fuel Storage Depots .. .. .	-
Total ..	267
Total Males	101
Total Females	166

Exemptions: There have been no applications received for any exemptions during the year.

Prosecutions: There have been no prosecutions instituted this year, the work having been carried out informally.

Accidents: No accidents have been reported during the year.



## Public Swimming Bath

The swimming bath is used quite extensively by children and schools as well as the general public, not only from this district but also those of adjoining areas. The capacity of the bath is approximately 64,000 gallons, and the turnover of bath water with the existing equipment takes place every 4 hours. The filtering and chlorinating equipment appears to give every satisfaction, as indicated by the water sample results.

During the year, 4 samples of water have been taken from the swimming bath at the inlet and outlet, 2 for chemical and 2 for bacteriological examination. The reports received from the Public Analyst showed that all these samples were excellent.

## Nuisances (Part 3, Public Health Act, 1936, except Smoke Nuisances)

The number of inspections for nuisances only, excluding housing inspection, was 203, and in addition 131 re-visits were made.

At the end of 1971 there were 7 informal notices outstanding. During 1972, 69 informal notices and 3 statutory notices were served and of these, together with the 7 informal notices outstanding at the end of 1971, 73 were abated, leaving 6 informal notices outstanding at the end of the year.

The statutory notices issued and remedied during the year were all in respect of nuisances arising from defective drainage.

Apart from such cases as these, where statutory notices have to be served, and which are fortunately few in number, almost all of the work relating to nuisances is carried out informally. An interview with the persons concerned is usually sufficient to secure the abatement of the notice, and therefore the above figures do not accurately reflect the time spent and the amount of work done in this respect.

## Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades as such carried out in the district, apart from the fact that Fish Friers were included many years ago under this category. At the present time there are 15 Fish Friers, 21 visits being made to these establishments.

## Sanitary inspection of the Area

	Visits
Camping Sites .. .. .	9
Conversions .. .. .	52
Re-visits .. .. .	31
Disinfestation .. .. .	41
Drainage, etc. .. .. .	126
Re-visits .. .. .	118



	Visits
Factories .. .. .	41
Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	21
Hairdressers .. .. .	11
Houses let in Lodgings .. .. .	2
Interviews .. .. .	1,269
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits .. .. .	121
Petrol Pump Inspections .. .. .	16
Public Cleansing - Administration .. .. .	161
Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection .. .. .	345
Public Cleansing - Refuse Disposal .. .. .	149
Public Cleansing - Salvage .. .. .	213
Public Conveniences .. .. .	21
Sanitary Accommodation - Defects .. .. .	42
Schools .. .. .	11
Shops .. .. .	189
Stables, Piggeries and Poultry .. .. .	10
Sunday Trading .. .. .	5
Tents, Vans and Sheds .. .. .	11
Theatres and Places of Entertainment .. .. .	6
Water Courses - Survey .. .. .	29
Water Supplies .. .. .	136
West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951 - Drains cleansed	46

### CLEAN AIR

Conversions in all areas have proceeded relatively smoothly, except that some delay has been noticed in the delivery by manufacturers of Fantom F/D solid smokeless fuel fires, but once again the popular choice has been for gas fires.

The Department has had a few complaints about certain types of solid fuel appliances, but after these had been referred to the Technical Department of the Solid Smokeless Fuels Advisory Service an inspection was made of the appliance, and the defect was located and modified to obtain a satisfactory performance.

Towards the year end a postal survey was made of the two remaining areas to be converted, No. 11 (Luddendenfoot) and No. 12 (Midgley). Almost 90% of all forms were returned to the Department within two months, which gave the Department a clear picture of the conversion requirements of these two areas, and it was surprising to note that approximately 387 dwellings out of 785 were already converted, which appears obvious that the residents of these areas were in favour of Clean Air regulations and showed this by converting prior to grant availability. Details of the survey were being finalised at the year end, for presentation during 1973.

Industrial premises have once again been most co-operative where the Department has had to draw attention to emission of dark smoke, and in almost every instance this has been due to mechanical faults rather than negligence.

Sowerby Bridge must be in the unique position of not having any recorded prosecutions for contraventions under the Clean Air Act which, considering that Sowerby Bridge was designated as a Black Area for smoke control, must give a feeling of pride amongst all concerned.

The massive reduction in air pollution, plus stone cleaning throughout the area, is giving a new look to Sowerby Bridge, which only a few years ago was a very much soot begrimed part of Yorkshire.

Apart from the fact that a few older people stated a preference for coal fires, after conversion, mostly to gas appliances, these people have remarked that they ought to have converted years ago, and any real complaints about Clean Air regulations were almost non-existent.

Area No. 10 (Sowerby) was confirmed on the 18th May 1972, and applications for grant have been received at a steady rate. Price increases on almost all appliances are evident, but no serious shortage of solid smokeless fuel obtained during the year.

In Area No. 10, grant increases authorised by the Council in 1971 became allowable on conversions and applications received after date of confirmation. Many contractors, however, claim that these allowances are unrealistic in view of escalating prices of labour and materials, but replying to this complaint it must in all fairness be stated that a private contractor's estimate was generally in excess of that of either Negas or Y.E.B.

Details of work carried out during 1972 are as follows:-

Final inspections for payment of grant (No. 9 Area - Norland)	..	..	12
Routine inspection of all areas (weekly)	..	..	44
Visits re details on application forms requiring clarification	..	..	210
Re-visits re installations	..	..	62
Smoke observations, domestic and industrial, all operative areas	..	..	86
Smoke Recording Stations - Crow Wood Park and Luddendenfoot	..	..	718
Interviews	..	..	1,400
Investigations re faulty appliances and leaks	..	..	28
Preliminary survey visits - Areas 11 and 12	..	..	61
Maintenance of atmospheric pollution pumps and equipment - visits	..	..	22
Visits to industrial premises re smoke emission	..	..	24
Reports to contractors re substandard installations	..	..	4
Warnings to occupiers of domestic premises re burning coal	..	..	6
Visits to local merchants re fuel availability	..	..	9
Visits re burning industrial waste, scrap merchants, etc.	..	..	7
Visits re anonymous phone calls re burning coal	..	..	9

# Details of Costs involved in completing Smoke Control

Area No.	Locality	Acres	Number of		Date of Operation	
			Houses	Premises		
1	Triangle	380	635	47	July	1965
2	Wharf Street	72	590	84	September	1966
3	Friendly / Hollins	75	364	72	July	1967
4	Beech / Albert Road	34	666	38	September	1967
5	Kershaw Housing Site	37	240	-	October	1968
6	Willow Hall	98	427	42	October	1968
7	Wakefield Road	168	570	89	October	1969
8	Beechwood	315	815	31	July	1973
9	Norland	1, 108	240	29	October	1971
10	Sowerby	2, 118	1, 118	37	October	1973
11	Luddendenfoot	463	525	62	December	1973
12	Midgley	895	576	43	December	1973
		5,763	6,766	574		

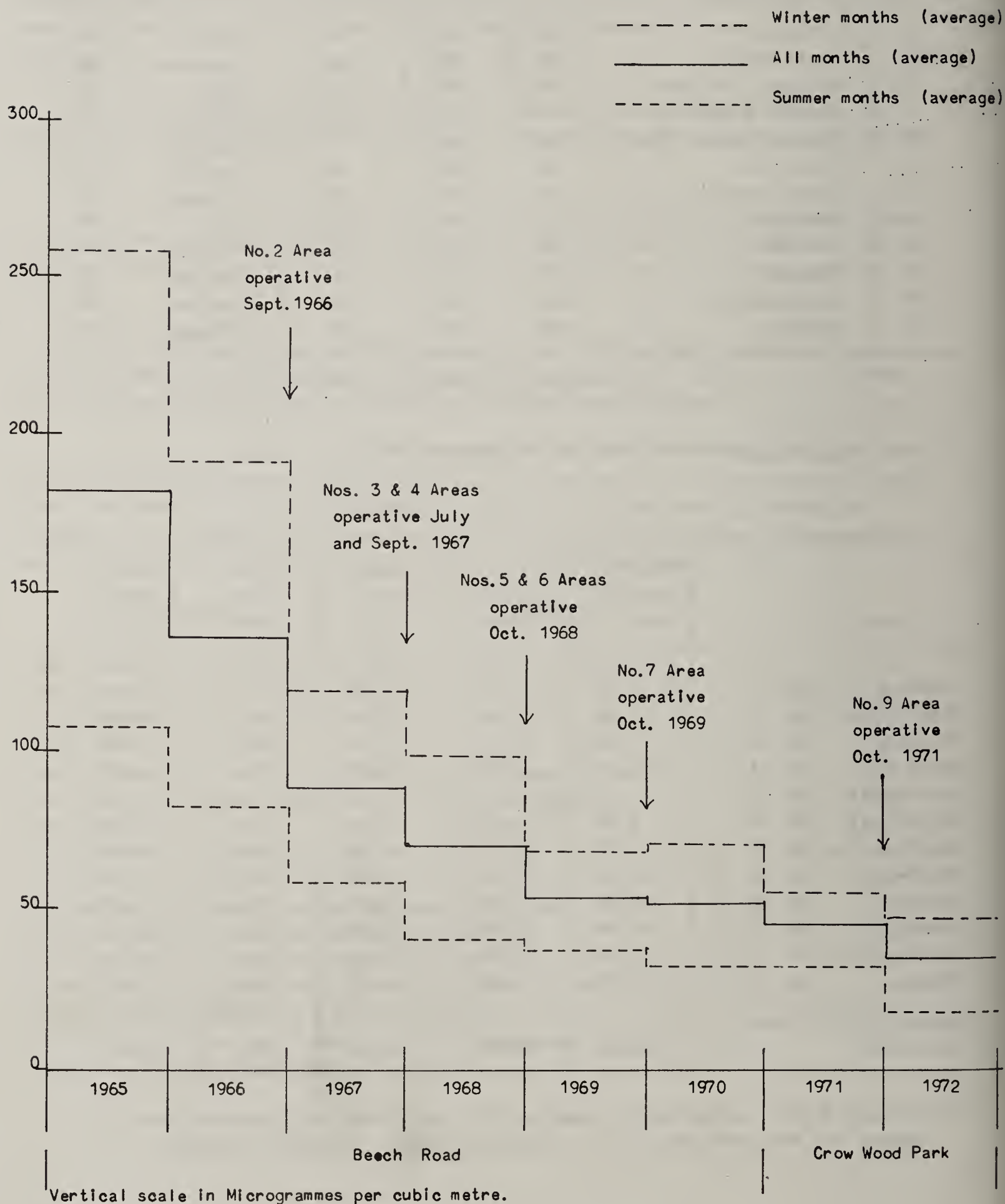
All Area to be fully smoke controlled by 31st December 1973.

Area		Approved Cost All Dwellings	Mandatory Grant	Local Authority Cost	Discre- tionary Grant	Local Authority Total Cost
		£	£	£	£	£
Triangle	No. 1	13,325	8,990	4,335	8	4,343
Wharf Street	No. 2	7,658	5,354	2,304	48	2,352
Friendly	No. 3	11,700	8,190	3,510	244	3,754
Beech Area	No. 4	17,489	11,836	5,653	32	5,685
Kershaw Site	No. 5	-	-	-	-	-
Willow Hall	No. 6	9,169	6,418	2,751	30	2,780
Wakefield Road	No. 7	11,799	8,241	3,558	60	3,618
Beechwood	No. 8 *	10,651	7,456	3,195	100	3,295
Norland	No. 9	4,876	3,413	1,463	34	1,497
Sowerby	No. 10 *	44,188	24,593	19,595	200	19,795
Luddendenfoot	No. 11 *	15,880	10,594	5,286	150	5,436
Midgley	No. 12 *	20,003	12,886	7,117	250	7,367
Estimated Final Costs						
All Areas		166,738	107,971	58,767	1,156	59,922

\* Estimated Costs - at the time of preparing this report from the figures available, it appears that the final costs will be substantially lower than those estimated.

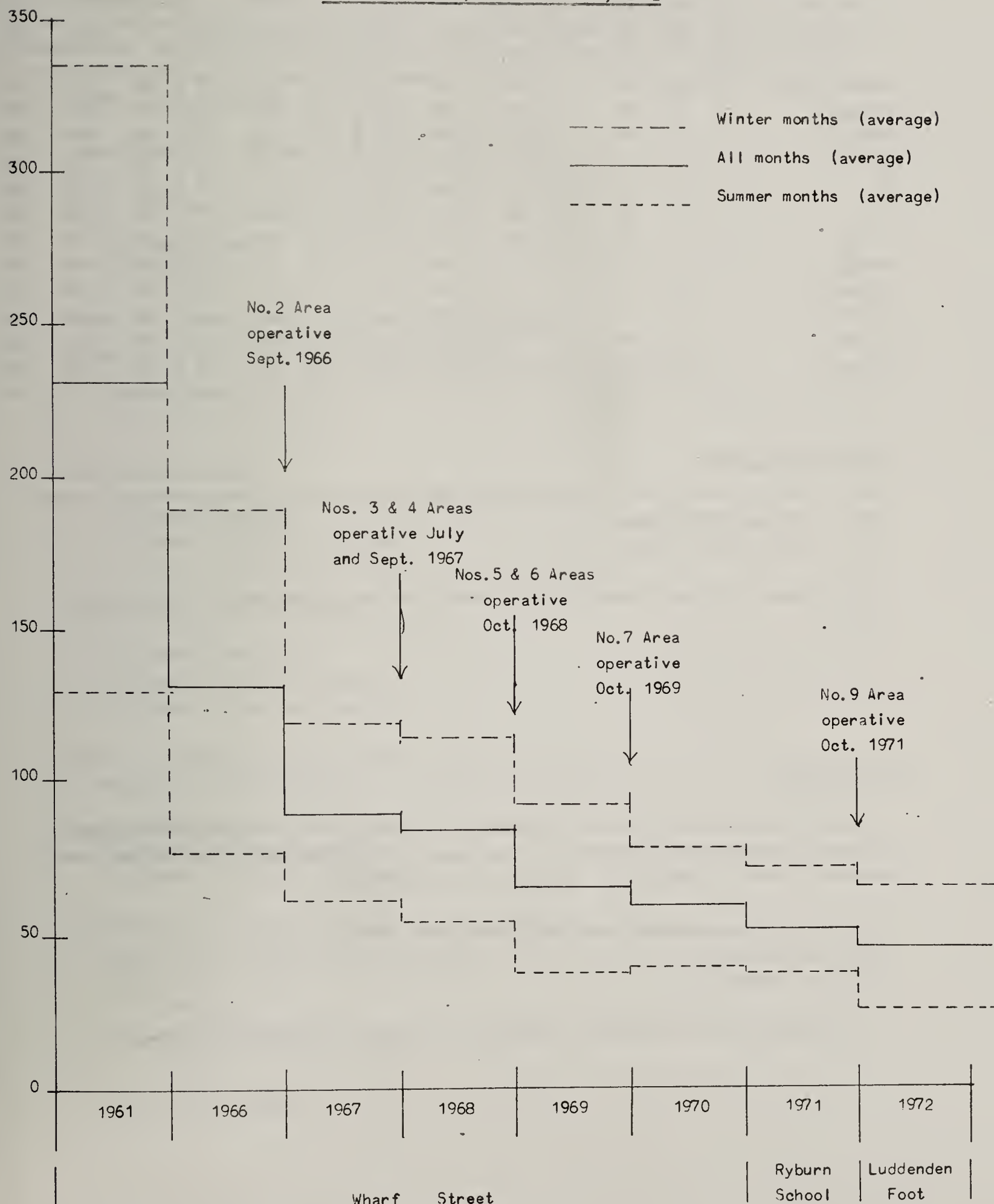


Atmospheric Smoke measured and recorded at Beech Road, Sowerby Bridge, 1965-70  
compared with that measured and recorded at Crow Wood Park, 1971-72





Atmospheric Smoke measured and recorded at Wharf Street, Sowerby Bridge, 1961 and 1966-70  
compared with that measured and recorded at Ryburn School, Sowerby, 1971, and at the  
Council Offices, Luddendenfoot, 1972



	Crow Wood Park						Council Offices, Luddendenfoot					
	Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide			Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide		
	MA	HDF	LDF	MA	HDF	LDF	MA	HDF	LDF	MA	HDF	LDF
January	41	104	10	69	205	17	73	137	23	144	294	23
February	48	133	6	54	156	0	72	169	12	134	270	37
March	51	175	9	104	203	59	67	216	8	162	380	54
April	15	30	2	58	93	34	22	58	7	63	113	26
May	22	54	8	60	158	16	29	57	8	62	148	13
June	19	37	6	64	126	30	23	88	7	61	120	26
July	18	38	10	66	138	23	21	54	6	64	144	29
August	11	27	5	54	98	21	18	72	6	54	104	22
September	33	97	4	48	167	Alk	39	117	12	62	118	0
October	42	142	8	101	257	13	60	181	11	88	268	Alk
November	42	151	7	85	170	40	53	198	3	99	209	26
December	66	234	11	102	395	Alk	78	229	15	152	570	60

#### Explanation of Table:-

MA - Monthly average, which is the mean of the daily figures for the month under review.

HDF - Highest daily figure.

LDF - Lowest daily figure.

Station formerly at Ryburn School moved to Council Offices, Luddendenfoot, at beginning of year.

#### Noise Nuisance

Under the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, the Local Authority have powers to deal with complaints arising from noise nuisance. During the year 21 visits were made in connection with noise complaints. Details are as follows:-

Noise from factories, static machinery, fans, saws, etc.	..	..	..	..	4
Noise from animals ..	..	..	..	..	2
Noise from road drills ..	..	..	..	..	2

The complaints were dealt with informally, no statutory notices being served.

## HOUSING

The Department is responsible, under the Housing Acts, for the routine inspection and survey of houses throughout the district; for the improvement and repair of houses where practicable; and for the representation for clearance and closure of houses which are so unfit as to be beyond practicable improvement or repair. The following table summarises the general housing statistics for 1972:-

1.	Approximate number of dwellinghouses in the district	..	..	..	..	6,299
2.	Number of houses included in above					
	(a) Back-to-back	..	..	..	..	960
	(b) Single back	..	..	..	..	85
3.	Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere					
	(1) Number of houses included in Representations made during the year					
	(a) in Clearance Areas	..	..	..	..	73
	(b) Individual Unfit Houses	..	..	..	..	6
	(2) Clearance Areas					
	(a) Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	51
	(b) Number of Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	110
	(c) Number of Families displaced	..	..	..	..	43
	(3) Unfit Houses not in Clearance Areas					
	(a) Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	5
	(b) Number of Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	8
	(c) Number of Families displaced	..	..	..	..	5
	(4) Unfit Houses closed under Section 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26, Housing Act, 1961					
	(a) Number	..	..	..	..	6
	(b) Number of Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	18
	(c) Number of Families displaced	..	..	..	..	7
	(5) Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied					
	After informal action by Local Authority					
	By Owner	..	..	..	..	84
	After formal notice under Public Health Acts					
	By Owner	..	..	..	..	-
	By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	3

After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957

By Owner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

4. Number of Families re-housed during the year into Council Houses

(a) Clearance Areas, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
(b) Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

5. Rent Act, 1957

(a) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	..	..	..	..	-				
(b) Number of Undertakings to execute repairs given by owners to the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
(c) Number of Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	..	..	..	..	-				

6. Housing Act, 1969, Part III - Rent of dwellings in good repair and provided with standard amenities, Section 45, Qualification Certificates

(a) Applications received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
(b) Applications granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 *
(c) Applications refused	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13 **

\* All 3 applications received in 1971.

\*\* In all 13 cases, application decision deferred to give owner opportunity to satisfy qualifying conditions.

7. New Dwellings

Number of dwellings completed during the year

By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

8. Grants for conversion or improvement of housing accommodation

(1) Applications received (number of dwellings)	..	..	..	..	188
(2) Applications approved (number of dwellings)	..	..	..	..	158
(3) Number of dwellings completed	..	..	..	..	83

(1) above can be divided into 107 Improvement Grants and 81 Standard Grants, 91 of the former being approved, and 67 of the latter. The number of dwellings completed during the year included certain dwellings where application had been made in previous years.

9. Details of advances for the purpose of acquiring or constructing houses

The Council operate the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, and during the financial year 50 advances were made. In addition, 9 improvement loans were made.



## Housing Improvement

Now that the worst of the unfit property has been cleared in this district and elsewhere, the emphasis is shifting more and more to area improvement. With the simplified procedure for area improvement being introduced by the Housing Act, 1969, together with the financial difficulties mounting in respect of new housing development, more serious consideration was being given to the declaration of Improvement Areas.

Sowerby Bridge has a good record regarding individual improvement grants and standard grants, 83 individual Improvement Grants and Standard Grants were completed during the year, bringing the total since 1949 to 1,162. Approximately 26% of the private houses in the district have now been improved with the help of these grants.

As mentioned in last year's annual report, a General Improvement Area had been declared in Mill Bank, following an interim report by a Bradford firm of architects and surveyors. As the General Improvement Area had been unfortunately declared on an interim report only, the Council last year engaged the services of the same architects and surveyors to carry out a detailed survey. This survey was completed during the year under review, and consideration was given to the resulting voluminous report. The report included the intentions and wishes of the various tenants and landlords, together with suggestions by the architects as to possible methods of executing improvements. The financing of the improvements in this area was discussed at some length with the architects, as they had informed the Council that they had been unable to obtain financial assistance privately, because new construction was not involved. It was realised that there were blocks of property where nothing would be done by the owners and these, therefore, would have to be developed by a Housing Association. Fears were expressed that this project may attract people from outer districts at the expense of the present inhabitants, but the architects assured the Council that the policy was Mill Bank for Mill Bank people.

The Council decided to make 100% loans available for purchase and/or improvement, and that the Bradford and Northern Housing Association be the association nominated to operate the scheme.

Towards the end of the year, a meeting was held at Mill Bank, to which all owners and occupiers of affected properties were invited by the Council. This meeting was held to clarify the Council's position in the matter, to give general details of the necessary works of improvement and the grants available, and to encourage owners to undertake the work of improvements without further delay.

By the end of the year, there was still very little sign of active improvement to property, even though the General Improvement Area had been declared over twelve months ago, and the Mill Bank Residents' Association were precipitating action as far back as April 1970. I feel that this fact reflects the opinion that the choice of this area for the Council's first improvement area, and the manner of its declaration, was unwise at that time. As the explanatory notes on area improvement, which are set out in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 65/69, state in paragraph 6, "... what is important is that the first scheme should succeed, and should show results quickly ..."

However, it is more encouraging to report on the progress during the year in relation to two areas in the East Ward of the district, where inspections and interviews were continuing at the beginning of the year under review. This was as a result of the Council asking last year for a detailed report on those two areas, following an assessment of areas suitable for improvement. On the completion of these inspections and interviews, detailed reports on the general housing conditions were put before the Council for their consideration. The reports, supported by relevant plans, outlined the number of houses which had been improved to full or reduced standards, those which remained wholly unimproved, details of the persons resident in the area, the consensus of opinion of owners and occupiers, the advantages and difficulties in the area, and the possibilities in relation to environmental improvements.

In one report, the Council's attention was also drawn to one block of 30 back-to-back houses, 20 of which were considered not capable of improvement in their own right. Two alternatives were thought feasible to overcome the problem; one being for the Council to compulsorily purchase the whole block and demolish it to provide precious open space; the other being for the Council to purchase the 20 properties and convert them into 14 improved properties. A meeting with the owners and occupiers of the whole block was held in June, to ascertain their feelings in this matter. As a result of this meeting, further individual interviews took place to see how many would be willing to sell their house to the Council, and who would wish to return if the Council were to improve the property as outlined above. As all the owners were willing to negotiate the sale of their house to the Council, and a number of occupiers wished to return after improvement, the Council decided to go ahead on this course of action.

Two Public Meetings, one for each proposed General Improvement Area, were held in October, to inform owners and occupiers of the procedure and works that would be necessary, and to assess their reactions to the proposals. Both meetings were very well attended, and lively discussions took place on all aspects of area improvement. At the end of both meetings, the majority of persons present were in favour of the Council declaring a General Improvement Area. Public involvement at this stage was considered a necessity, as many people would be affected by the proposals, and for the venture to be a success their co-operation would be essential.

As a result of these meetings, before the end of the year the Council had formally declared the East Ward Nos. 1 and 2 General Improvement Areas, which covered in total 224 houses. In comparison to the Mill Bank General Improvement Area, even at this stage, as a result of the initial approaches made by this Department, improvement works in some instances were already under way, and many improvement grant applications were being received. There is no doubt that the enthusiasm and imagination of the residents in these two adjacent areas had been fired by these approaches and proposals.

In addition, certain properties which had originally been included in the proposed clearance programme for the period 1969-75 were temporarily removed from the programme, in order to give the interested parties an opportunity of submitting detailed plans and specifications for the improvement of the houses concerned. The number of houses involved was approximately 68, including properties at St. Peter's Square and Dean Lane, Sowerby; Allan Terrace / Hope Street, and Prospect Terrace, Norland; and Belmont Terrace at Rochdale Road. At the year end these schemes were either well in hand, or discussions were being held with the owners. It is increasingly apparent that in respect of certain unfit properties, owners



or prospective purchasers seem willing to spend large amounts of money to make properties fit. Such properties have usually been considered by this Department to be an uneconomical proposition and could not be improved at a reasonable cost. However, it is pleasing to note this increased activity in the improvement of the older houses, especially the farmhouse and country cottage.

### Clearance of Unfit Houses

With over 1,500 unfit houses having now been dealt with in clearance areas, and over 1,150 improvement grants having been completed, there remain approximately 250-300 substandard houses which appear unsuitable for improvement, falling short of the requirements of the Housing Act, and which will be reviewed between 1975 and 1980.

During 1972, 5 clearance areas were declared, consisting of 73 houses, details of which are set out below. 2 areas were confirmed by the Department of the Environment during the year, and confirmation is awaited for 2 outstanding areas. 51 houses in confirmed clearance areas were demolished during the year.

Details of clearance procedure during 1972 are set out below:-

Central Ward (No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1972 (Industrial Road)	..	4	houses
Norland Ward (No. 3) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1972 (Lower Oak, Triangle)	.	4	houses
Norland Ward (No. 5) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1972 (Triangle and Oak Hill)		17	houses
East Ward (No. 6) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1972 (Dearnleys Yard)	.. ..	8	houses
East Ward (No. 7) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1972 (Willow Street)	.. ..	40	houses

Three of the above Orders were declared in 1971, but these were not submitted to the Department of the Environment last year, due to a difference of opinion between the Department of the Environment and the Council on classification in 2 other Orders submitted in that year. A meeting with representatives of the Department of the Environment in London this year has helped to clarify the position, although their ruling does cause problems with classification and fair compensation. The 3 Orders mentioned above were re-declared in the light of these discussions and submitted during the year. Two of these Orders were confirmed during the year, but the owners of the properties concerned in the third Order objected, and a Public Inquiry is to be held early next year.

The difference in opinion on classification of the 2 Orders submitted last year resulted in the Council undertaking negotiations with the owners concerned under Part V of the Housing Act, 1957. A satisfactory conclusion was reached in both cases, as a result of these negotiations.

One Order declared during the year was not submitted to the Department of the Environment, as discussions with one owner and prospective purchasers were taking place on the possibility of improving the property.

Throughout the year, the Council made continual representation to the Department of the Environment regarding the costs they had to bear as a result of a Public Inquiry last year, when the only objector did not appear, and the Order was confirmed without modification. The Council questioned the charging of the costs of the Inquiry to the Council, as they felt

the owner had acted frivolously, and wished to avoid a serious precedent being created in this connection. Unfortunately, the Council received very little satisfaction.

#### Closure of Unfit Houses

6 houses were closed after action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. It was not practicable to demolish these houses at the time.

#### Future Clearance Programme

In 1971 it was decided that with the forthcoming amalgamation of Local Authorities in 1974, the 1969-75 proposed clearance programme should be reviewed, so that the majority of the property in the programme would have been dealt with by the end of 1973. It is also fortunate in this respect that a number of tenanted properties have either become owner-occupied or there has been a change in ownership, which has meant that a very serious interest has been shown in improvement. Whereas it was envisaged last year that in the reviewed programme the properties that would have to be dealt with in 1972 would be 94, in fact it was only necessary to represent 73 houses. In the same programme, the properties shown in 1973 total 93, but proposals being submitted by new owners will probably mean that this figure will be reduced to approximately 53.

Although for the most part the Type 1 back-to-back and back-to-earth substandard properties will have been eliminated by 1974, many of the borderline properties still remain, and their future will be determined between 1974 and 1980 by the housing climate at that time, and by the serious proposals of the owners concerned. Approximately 300 properties fall into this category.

#### Overcrowding

Although occasional cases arise, these are promptly dealt with informally, and overcrowding is not now the problem it was in the immediate post-war years.

#### Advances for House Purchase

Advances are made by the Council under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, for the purchase of houses for owner-occupation. These are usually the older type of terrace houses which would not attract a Building Society mortgage. During 1972, 50 advances (totalling £56,681) were made for this purpose, together with 9 improvement loans (totalling £4,417).

#### Re-Building

24 houses were completed in the district during 1972, 22 of these having been built by the Local Authority, the remaining 2 by private enterprise. The following statistics



regarding new houses erected, houses cleared, and population trends since 1950, are of interest.

Table of Houses erected in the Urban District over the past 23 years:

Year	Houses Erected		Total	Houses Condemned	Population
	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise			
1950	22	-	22	-	19,040
1951	16	2	18	-	18,770 (census)
1952	12	-	12	-	18,660
1953	40	-	40	-	18,530
1954	58	-	58	-	18,500
1955	52	-	52	-	18,430
1956	28	-	28	-	18,260
1957	17	-	17	-	18,170
1958	-	-	-	47	18,140
1959	31	2	33	41	17,940
1960	3	12	15	53	17,870
1961	24	18	42	166	17,350 (census)
1962	12	13	25	55	17,330
1963	97	-	97	122	17,320
1964	86	4	90	257	17,150
1965	203	24	227	173	16,930
1966	135	4	139	112	16,690
1967	186	29	215	22	16,600
1968	32	1	33	123	16,700
1969	5	3	8	101	16,610
1970	-	19	19	71	16,430
1971	-	16	16	89	16,260 (census)
1972	22	2	24	73	16,170
	1,081	149	1,230	1,505	

#### General Housing Inspection

	Visits												
Public Health Acts, 1936-61 (Housing)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Re-visits .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234
Re-visits .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115
Miscellaneous Housing .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	284
Re-visits .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101
Housing Survey for Clearance, etc., and Improvement .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	362
Inspection of Individual Unfit Houses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Clearance Area sites .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Rent Act, 1957, and Qualification Certificates applications .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28

	Visits
Improvement Grant visits .. .. .	136
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts .. .. .	50
Overcrowding .. .. .	2

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Meat Inspection

The one private slaughterhouse in the district was voluntarily closed by the owner early in 1970, and no slaughtering has taken place there since that time.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Licences have been issued to 3 slaughtermen, under the above Act.

### Slaughter of Poultry

There is no registered poultry processing establishment in the district, although spasmodic slaughtering of poultry undoubtedly occurs at Christmas time. This is an offence, of course, unless the appropriate Regulations as regards hygienic practices and premises, etc. are complied with. Routine inspections continued throughout the year to ensure that no illicit slaughtering was being carried out, especially in respect of the instance that arose last year.

### Unsound Food - Surrendered or Condemned

As in previous years, a considerable amount of unsound food has been examined and condemned during the year, from the shops and food warehouses in the district.

The majority of food is set aside and surrendered by the food handlers, which speaks well for their training in food hygiene, although all stocks are examined from time to time, shelf life and stock rotation of food being carefully noted.

The following is a list of tinned and packaged foods condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1972:-

	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Meat .. .. .		1	11	-
Bacon .. .. .	1	3	11	-
Ham .. .. .		1	5	-
Yoghurt .. .. .			1	11
Cream .. .. .			1	12
Frozen Foods .. .. .		3	22	13
Totals ..	3	1	25	4

#### Food Inspection - General

There were only 4 complaints regarding unsound food during the year. In 2 cases the complaints were found to be unjustified, whilst in the 2 remaining cases severe warnings were issued to the retailers concerned.

The food premises are visited regularly, and the standard of hygiene is generally very good, as is also the hygiene consciousness of the food handling personnel.

The following is a list of all food shops in the district, and details of visits made during the year:-

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits
Bakehouses .. .. .	2	5
Butchers' Shops .. .. .	24	47
Butchers' Stalls (Market) .. .. .	5	74
Canteens .. .. .	23	19
Confectioners and Sweet Shops .. .. .	25	41
Food Factories .. .. .	6	11
Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	15	21
Fish Merchant (Market Stall) .. .. .	1	54
Greengrocers and Fruiterers .. .. .	16	72
Grocers - General .. .. .	51	95
Ice Cream - Retailers and Vans .. .. .	58	46
Market Stalls - Miscellaneous Foods .. .. .	19	115
Mobile Traders .. .. .	44	34
Public Houses and Clubs .. .. .	41	19
Restaurants and Snack Bars, etc. .. .. .	9	31
Wholesale Food Premises .. .. .	2	35
Miscellaneous Food Visits .. .. .	-	81



## Market

The Council-owned open market continues to be very popular, and opens on Tuesdays and Fridays. There is a wide variety of stalls selling all types of general goods, in addition to a section devoted to Food Stalls. These comply with the Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations, 1966, in all respects, and are permanent in structure.

The Authority were one of the first to provide permanent food stalls with a stainless steel sink and hot and cold water supply, and have always endeavoured to maintain a high standard.

The market is inspected regularly, and 162 visits were made for this purpose. Food hygiene standards continue to be good.

## Milk Sampling

Raw milk (i.e. farm bottled milk) is sampled regularly as a routine, and checked for evidence of Brucellosis organisms, and the cleanliness of the milk (methylene blue test). These tests are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory in Bradford.

Of the 80 raw milk samples taken during the year, 3 failed the methylene blue test, and the necessary steps were taken to improve handling methods, etc. at the dairy. 10 samples were deemed to be void on the methylene blue test, as the maximum permissible atmospheric shade temperature had been exceeded on arrival at the laboratory. 3 of the samples proved to be positive for Brucellosis on culture, and as all 3 cases involved milk originating from outside the Urban District, the Health authorities concerned were informed and carried out follow-up procedure.

In addition to the bulk samples, 42 individual cow samples were taken during the year, at the request of local dairymen. These samples revealed only 2 affected cows, both being from the same herd, all milk from which goes for pasteurisation.

During 1970, Section 106 (4) of the Agriculture Act, 1970, was enacted, which makes it an offence to sell otherwise than for slaughter an animal which is known to be a Brucellosis reactor, and fines of over £400 are applicable. It is hoped that this section will minimise the traffic in affected cows from one district to another, which results in spreading the infection to uncontaminated herds in many cases.

Certain local dairymen are now applying to have their herds designated as Brucellosis Accredited herds, and in this way an increasing pool of Brucellosis-free cattle should be built up in the next few years.

In addition to the samples of raw milk, 1 sample of pasteurised milk was taken, and this was found to be satisfactory as regards efficiency of heat treatment and keeping quality.

Milk dealers generally are most co-operative with the Inspectors, and no prosecution under the Milk and Dairies legislation was necessary during 1972, nor was it necessary for



any notices to be served requiring that milk should not be sold unless heat treated. It is encouraging to report a substantial decrease in the number of samples proved to be positive for Brucellosis on culture, as well as a similar reduction in the number of affected cows within the district.

#### Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the Urban District, and the 30 registered shops sell only pre-wrapped ice cream. In addition, 18 vans are registered under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. The premises and vans are inspected from time to time, and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness generally is maintained.

#### Food Hawkers

At the year end, 43 food hawkers were registered under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, although probably not all are still hawking food in this district. Details of these registrations are as follows:-

- 9 dealing in Bread and Confectionery
- 14 dealing in Greengrocery, including Fish
- 18 dealing in Ice Cream
- 1 dealing in General Foodstuffs
- 1 dealing in Meat and Meat Products

Generally speaking, the food hawkers' vehicles comply with the appropriate requirements of the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, and those found not to, are soon brought up to standard after an initial approach.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

#### Refuse Collection

The Department continues the responsibility for the cleansing services in the district, with the exception of street cleansing. Included in this work is both the collection and disposal of house refuse, together with the collection of industrial, trade, market refuse, pails, etc., which continues to operate satisfactorily. Waste paper and other salvageable materials are also collected, and under the Civic Amenities Act work in connection with the removal of bulky materials from houses and waste lands, and also the removal of abandoned vehicles, is carried out.

House refuse continues to be collected on a 7-day cycle, and this is only extended during holidays and periods of illness, or due to disruption of the transport services; although during the past year it has been possible to get casual labour, mostly in the form of students who have carried out the work in a very satisfactory manner, and this has enabled the work to continue uninterrupted for almost the entire twelve months.

Unfortunately, the turnover of labour continues to be quite high. This is inevitable, due both to the type of work and the return for the same, but it tends to disrupt the smooth working of the Department, and maximum efficiency can only be continued with a settled and regular team.

The basic wage, in my opinion, is still far too low to attract the right type of labour, and if it were not for the older employees of the Department who continue to work effectively, even when short staffed, the entire system would inevitably break down. Over the years the Department has endeavoured to increase the "take-home" pay by the introduction of the bonus system, and this has increased the take-home pay by between 15% and 20%, which has helped to some extent to stabilise the labour position.

A study of the entire system of refuse collection was completed during the year, and this was carried out for two main reasons. Firstly, for the review of the bonus scheme, which has remained unchanged since 1965, although the basic wages have increased; and secondly, to ascertain whether any further extension of the sack system of refuse collection would improve collection and reduce man hours. The findings of this study revealed that the sack system could be increased by approximately 1,000, mainly in the Council estates and in the more remote properties, or houses having long paths. The survey also revealed that the free-standing and wall units for the sack system had distinct disadvantages due to the interference by animals, and the spillage due to the same. It is therefore intended to replace these over the next twelve months, with the bin liner system. It is anticipated that some 30% of the district will be covered by this system of refuse collection, and it is not considered that any further extensions would add to the efficiency of the rounds, as in the remaining properties the bins are comparatively accessible and it is not anticipated that any great saving would be introduced by the provision of any alternative method.

The Department is replacing the 2½ cu.ft. metal bins as they become worn out, with the 3½ cu.ft. plastic bin. These, we find, are not only lighter but in view of the extension of the Smoke Control Areas and the very bulky nature of the refuse, a 2½ cu.ft. bin is insufficient for a normal family. The 4 cu.ft. plastic bin which was introduced in certain parts of the district last year, has not proved satisfactory, and until a better and more substantial type of bin is available they will not be re-introduced.

The communal ashbin place which has been in evidence in the West Riding towns for so many years, is rapidly disappearing, and in fact in this area with slum clearance and the improvement of the refuse accommodation, we have now seen an end to this very dirty and very objectionable accommodation.

The bulk containers have increased again, and whilst these are used mostly in connection with the high rise flats, they have been extended to certain factories within the district. There are now some 25 in use, and for the most part these are emptied twice per week.



The conditions vary in the flats, but as I stated in my last report, there is no doubt that in the case of the high flats where the warden is directly responsible for the refuse accommodation, complaints of chute blockages and overfull containers are almost non-existent, and the conditions are vastly superior to those in the 5-storey blocks, where there is very little supervision and where both the chutes and the containers are very badly abused.

With the improvement of the housing and sanitary conditions, and the extension of water supplies in the more rural areas, the pail closet has almost disappeared, and at the end of the year it was suggested that this service would be discontinued.

Details of refuse collection throughout the year are set out in the following table:-

Vehicle	Ashbins	Loads	Tons	Cwts.
Dennis No. 15 .. .. .	124,814	514	1,542	-
S. & D. No. 16 .. .. .	24,990	978	990	-
Dennis No. 17 .. .. .	128,900	524	1,563	-
Karrier No. 19 .. .. .	-	148	53	-
S. & D. No. 20 .. .. .	46,446	687	939	-
Totals ..	325,150	2,851	5,087	-

## Transport

The Department continues to operate five vehicles on refuse collection, four of which are in regular use, the fifth being brought into service as and when required.

The spare vehicle is invaluable, as when there are breakdowns this can be brought into service. For the first time, the vehicles of the Department have been subjected to the regulations of Plating and Testing, and this has meant that certain vehicles have been out of service for two or three weeks, depending upon the amount of work found necessary; and without the spare vehicle there is no doubt that the rounds would be seriously behind schedule.

The fleet works very efficiently, although the costs of maintenance of the Dennis Paxit vehicles has been quite heavy, especially the Dennis 15, purchased in 1964. The dual tip type of vehicle is much less costly to operate, but with the type of refuse available it is essential, if one is to get the maximum effective working time from a vehicle, that it must have some method of compaction; and with both Dennis vehicles it is possible to reduce travelling time to an absolute minimum, and have the vehicles out with the team the whole of the morning or afternoon session.

The recent acquisition of the S. & D. 20 Fore and Aft vehicle for out-district work has proved invaluable, by reason of the fact that it is sufficiently manoeuvrable and narrow to negotiate the roads and farm tracks in the outer districts, and yet it has sufficient capacity to work on some of the more congested areas when this becomes necessary.

The J.C.B., which was purchased in 1963, was replaced in 1972. The tractor had proved to be most efficient and very reliable, even when it was called upon to carry out not only tip control, but also much heavier work for which it was not really designed. The J.C.B. tractor has been replaced with a John Deere tracked vehicle, and it has been thought necessary to purchase this type of vehicle in order to carry out the very many different duties at Milner Royd. Not only is tip control necessary, but it will be necessary to grade certain banks, to provide deep bays for the extension of the proposed playing area; also to provide and remove roads as and when necessary. At the year end the tractor had only been working for three months, but it was proving very satisfactory. In order that the maximum amount of work can be carried out on the tip, the Bedford tipping waggon is now coming to the end of its useful life, and this will have to be replaced during the coming year.

The vehicles which are now operated by the Department, together with the duties on which they are employed, are set out in the following table:-

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
15	Dennis Paxit (continuous loader)	1964	25 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
16	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader (with power press)	1965	11 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection, Salvage, Trade Refuse.
17	Dennis Paxit (continuous loader)	1969	25 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
18	Bedford	1969		Tip work.
19	Karrier Bantam (dual tip)	1970	11 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection, Salvage (spare).
20	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader (with power press)	1972	20 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
	J.C.B. Shovel (taken out of service)	1963	Shovel	Refuse Disposal.
	John Deere (commenced service September) 350A	1972	Tracked Shovel	Refuse Disposal.

#### Accidents

During the year the vehicles have been involved in 5 accidents, as follows:-

Dennis No. 15	..	..	..	3
Dennis No. 17	..	..	..	1
S. & D. No. 20	..	..	..	1



There has been a slight decrease in the number of accidents, and generally these have been unavoidable, due to the vehicles negotiating narrow unmade roads, and so damaging dry stone walls, gate posts, etc. It is rather surprising that more accidents are not caused by reason of the fact of the thoughtless, indiscriminate parking on narrow roads, forcing Council vehicles on to pavements, contributing to accidents and damage to footpaths, etc. I feel that the drivers are to be congratulated in keeping their accidents down to such a low figure.

#### Municipal Ashbin Scheme

This scheme has, over the years, proved to be invaluable to the Authority. It was commenced in 1949 as a bin hire scheme, and later converted to the Municipal Ashbin Scheme.

The scheme has allowed the Local Authority to standardise on its containers, and also to experiment with different types, and it has also been possible to introduce paper sack system of refuse collection, which has all been to the benefit of the Local Authority. This would have been impossible without a Municipal Ashbin Scheme being available. The scheme has obviated the necessity for the service of notice for the replacement of bins, and this is now carried out as a routine matter.

During the year, 390 bins have been replaced, or provided for new properties.

#### Trade Refuse

The trade refuse throughout the district is collected regularly once per week, with the exception of food shops where two collections are made. The charges remain unchanged, that is one bin of refuse is collected free of charge, with a charge of 5p for each additional bin.

Some of the larger shops and food factories have applied for bulk containers, and these have been introduced on a rental basis, the charge for emptying these being 50p per week.

With the continued increase in trade refuse from the open market, the large bulk containers have been introduced, and this has proved to be very satisfactory.

The total amount of trade and industrial refuse removed during the year has realised approximately £700.

#### Refuse Disposal

The method of refuse disposal continues to be by controlled tipping at Milner Royd, which receives all the domestic refuse, together with trade and industrial refuse.

The tipping area has been increased by the digging out of deep bays in the hillside, which will not only extend the finished recreational area but is also providing additional tipping space and blinding material for the sides of the tip. Due to smoke control, the composition of the refuse has greatly changed over the years, and the amount of ash is

negligible, thus the covering of the tip presents considerable difficulties.

As set out in the last report, the central area of the tip has been properly levelled and seeded, and the most easterly portion has now also been completed and is ready for seeding. The westerly end is filling up quite rapidly, and at the year end approximately twelve to eighteen months' tipping space remain.

The Department has received all the industrial waste which has been accumulated locally and disposed of by a local waste disposal merchant, but due to shortage of space has now refused to accommodate outside disposal factors. As the year progresses, the reception of industrial waste from this source will have to be very carefully controlled, and during the coming year will have to be restricted. There is a distinct possibility that before the end of 1973 the tip will be closed for industrial refuse. The contractors' refuse has been received, as this is proving to be acceptable for covering and additional consolidation.

One part of the area is devoted entirely to the reception at all times of house refuse, but unfortunately this is very badly abused during week-ends, both by contractors and by householders.

During the year, the J.C.B., which has given very valuable service over the past nine years, has been taken out of service and replaced by a John Deere tracked vehicle. There is no doubt that the J.C.B. would have been quite adequate for tip control, but due to the additional work required on the tip in the digging of the bays, grading of the banks, provision of roads and working in the clay subsoil in all weathers, it was necessary to obtain a tracked vehicle. Since the introduction of this new tractor, a considerable amount of additional work has been undertaken, and it is anticipated that in the coming year, with perhaps a few exceptions where contractors may have to be brought in, the work of controlling the tip and carrying out the majority of the additional works will be completed by the new machine, which should prove a very considerable saving to the Local Authority.

In my last report reference was made to the Calderdale Authorities getting together and discussing in great detail the facilities for refuse disposal. All Authorities expressed grave concern on the life of the existing controlled tips. The project of proving a suitable Inclinator for the entire area was well under way, and the consultants had already completed the feasibility study, but unfortunately since that date there has been considerable delay, mainly due to the acceptance of a suitable site. In view of the position of the Authorities regarding refuse disposal, and the life of the tips concerned, it is of the utmost importance that this project should continue with the utmost speed, if this is to be completed prior to tipping space running out.

### Salvage

The salvage returns again showed an increase over the previous year, of approximately 20 tonnes, and an increase in the revenue of approximately £250. The increase would have actually been much greater, had it not been for the fact that the kraft paper which was proving so beneficial failed to find a suitable outlet, and this had to be discontinued.



The returns are quite satisfactory, but there is no doubt that as I have mentioned on previous occasions, a considerable amount of additional waste paper is available, and this can be readily seen when the vehicles arrive at the disposal point. It is most unfortunate that, after the householders have gone to the trouble of saving the waste paper, this is not saved in a proper manner by the collectors. It is felt that with a little more care on the part of the collectors, the greater part of this valuable commodity could be made available, with a greater financial return to the Council.

Unfortunately, with the ever increasing costs of labour, and especially transport, the price one gets for waste paper is not a very profitable proposition. In saving waste paper, firstly, it is a valuable commodity and it does reduce the fire hazard to the tip, and also leaves very valuable space for other refuse. It is therefore considered that the effort is worthwhile.

Waste paper bonus is still paid to the employees of the Cleansing Department, but unfortunately as this is less than the bin bonus it could have an effect upon the collection, as the earlier the men finish on the rounds the higher the bin bonus.

There has been no difficulty in the disposal at Thames Board Mills, who have again been most helpful and co-operative in every possible way.

Details of the salvage recovered in 1972 are set out in the following table:-

Materials Salvaged	Tonnes	£
Mixed Paper .. .. .	110.70	1,146.10
Fibreboard .. .. .	73.61	902.89
Newspaper .. .. .	65.36	797.92
Kraft Sacks .. .. .	27.80	417.00
Totals ..	277.47	3,263.91

#### Civic Amenities Act, 1967

The sections of this Act administered by the Health Department are those dealing with the indiscriminate dumping of refuse, and the removal of abandoned vehicles.

The indiscriminate dumping of refuse continues in the more rural parts of the district, and this is to be greatly deplored by reason of the fact that the Council's tip at Mearclough is open at all times for the deposit of garden refuse, bulky materials or other types of refuse not normally collected by the Department. The householder taking such refuse to the tip does so free of charge, and where bulky material is removed by the Department by special arrangement, it is generally a free service. There is therefore no excuse at all for people

dumping beds, bedding, chairs, etc. indiscriminately, and defacing many parts of our rural areas.

As mentioned in the disposal section, the facilities which are available to the householders of Sowerby Bridge are also enjoyed by ratepayers of adjoining Authorities, but although the tipping areas are very clearly marked, the area is very badly abused and refuse is scattered over a very wide area.

Perhaps the one redeeming feature is that this is a tip, and the refuse can be eventually conveyed to a central position, but this takes a considerable amount of time, and if the notices were only followed then the arrangements could be completed to everyone's satisfaction. During the year, 20 dumps and accumulations were cleared.

As a result of formal and informal procedure under the Act, 26 abandoned vehicles have been removed from open spaces, either by the owner of the vehicle or a local scrap merchant. The Council have arrangements with two sources for the removal of abandoned cars, which is carried out very promptly and at no charge to the Authority.

## GENERAL ITEMS

### Petroleum Acts and Orders

Routine inspection of petrol stations and petroleum installations was made prior to the issuing of the licences. This work has also been carried out in conjunction with the Fire Prevention Officer of the West Riding County Council.

During the year, 16 inspections have been carried out, and the following licences have been issued:-

Storage of Petroleum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Storage of Cellulose Paint and Petroleum Mixtures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

### Rodent Control

The work of rodent control is divided between a part-time operative, who deals with both business and commercial premises, and the cleansing foreman, who is responsible for the remainder. In the absence of one or the other, then this work is carried out by the Inspectors.

During the year, 178 dwellinghouses, 91 business premises, 11 Local Authority properties and 3 agricultural properties have been inspected and treated as necessary. The infestations were of a minor nature for the most part.



The number of treatments carried out at the various premises during the year are set out as follows:-

Local Authority properties	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Private dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	384
Business premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	268
Agricultural properties	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

Following upon the work carried out in the eradication of the feral (wild) pigeons during previous years, the number of pigeons has been reduced quite considerably, although they again appear to be on the increase. This is due to certain sections of the public continuing to attract the birds by providing food on the highways and pavements. The residents, when approached, feel that they are doing no harm, but if it was realised the damage which these birds do in the fouling of troughings, picking out of jointing material, damage to paths, etc., there is no doubt that they would cease feeding the pigeons and the problem would solve itself in a very short time.

#### Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

Under the above Regulations, the following scrap metal dealers are on the register:-

- (1) Messrs Bradley & Holmes, 16 Arden Road, Halifax,  
trading from (a) Causeway Holme Works, Sowerby Bridge.  
(b) The Goods Sidings, Sowerby Bridge Station.
- (2) Mr. J. Smith, Thorpe Mills, Triangle,  
trading from Thorpe Mills.
- (3) Mr. T.A.B. Law, 21 Orchard Road, Cross Gates, Leeds,  
trading from Chapel Lane, Sowerby Bridge.







